

Senate Resolution 752

By: Senators Buckner of the 44th, Seay of the 34th, Thomas of the 54th, Tate of the 38th, Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Emergency and Pandemic Preparedness and Response Study Committee;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it is essential to public health and safety that this state be prepared in the event
4 of a public health emergency caused by bioterrorism or the rapid transmission of a
5 life-threatening disease; and

6 WHEREAS, a pandemic or epidemic has the potential of causing both devastating health
7 consequences for the citizens of this state and the disruption of critical community services
8 due to the incapacitation of essential human infrastructure and, to attempt to avoid such
9 tragic consequences, there should be an evaluation of the state's preparedness and a
10 consideration of the need for state and local contingency plans; and

11 WHEREAS, an evaluation of the needs for quarantine, the circumstances under which
12 quarantine would be imposed, and the establishment of a constitutional process for the rapid
13 imposition of quarantine should be conducted and established prior to an actual bioterrorist
14 or viral event; and

15 WHEREAS, in the event of a public health emergency or disaster, state and local officials
16 will be called upon to implement a response plan immediately and without hesitation;
17 therefore, the time to prepare for such a disastrous event is now; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly is obligated to prepare in order to provide for
19 minimal loss of life and best protect Georgia residents.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
21 Emergency and Pandemic Response Study Committee to be composed of five members. The
22 President of the Senate shall appoint the members of the committee and shall designate one
23 of such members as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
25 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
26 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
27 particularly review and consider the development of uniform and humane quarantine
28 procedures to be implemented in the event of a pandemic, bioterrorist attack, or
29 uncontrollable viral outbreak.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
31 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
32 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
33 of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized
34 for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not
35 more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out
36 the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the
37 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
38 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2009.
39 The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2009.